

The biggest difference between the plans are, first and foremost, we want to manage it through Medicare, not let the HMOs, as they have done through the other insurance plans. We do not want to put, as the HMOs have, profits ahead of people. We want to put people ahead of profits. We want to keep the costs down, contain the costs. We want to make it optional for you to participate, and affordable is the reason why you will choose through our plan to participate. And, finally, to protect the most vulnerable in our society, the most frail elderly of our society who built this country, who endured the Depression, came through the wars, the world wars, the most burdensome world wars that took its toll on their lives. Many of them are disabled, handicapped because of those wars, and the most prosperous, richest, wealthiest country on Earth cannot afford to help the most vulnerable of our society? I am here asking why not?

I thank the gentleman for the opportunity. I appreciate the leadership of the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. TURNER. I thank the gentleman for his passion on this issue and for his leadership. I know we all feel strongly about this. I cannot help but think of the constituents that you mentioned and the constituents that I visit with all the time who are struggling to pay their prescription drug costs. I just ran into one just the other day, it was at the Quik Lube in Lufkin, angry that the Congress had not acted to pass a meaningful drug plan. I have seen those seniors board those buses in Houston to travel to Mexico and come back and say they have saved \$10,000 by making the trip together.

I know the next gentleman who will speak understands that problem, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN), a fighter for seniors on the prescription drug issue who has also seen in his State those seniors board those buses and go to Canada and save thousands of dollars.

It is a pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from Illinois, who has been such a terrific fighter for this issue since he came to the Congress.

I will be very brief. I just wanted to say, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PHELPS) was saying, he was trying to explain to people back home what the difference is between the Republican Party and the Democratic Party on this issue. I would add, in addition to what he said, that we Democrats do not believe we can fool all the people all of the time. For the second election cycle in a row, the Republican Party has put up a plan which is an illusion, will not provide prescription drug coverage to seniors because the private insurance market will not provide what they say it will provide. This plan will not become law. If it becomes law, it will not provide help to seniors because it relies on the private insurance market. There

is no guaranteed benefit, no guaranteed copay. It is whatever the insurance companies want to charge.

The fundamental problem is that the people who will sign up for the plan are those who have very high prescription drug bills. The insurance industry will not be able to make money, and so they will stop providing the coverage. We have already been through this with managed care under Medicare. This kind of approach does not work.

Everyone else in this country who is employed and has prescription drug coverage gets their prescription drug coverage through their health care plan. For seniors, it is Medicare. All we are saying as Democrats is let us have a Medicare prescription drug benefit. Let us not try year after year, election after election, to cloud this issue, pretend we have a plan as the Republicans do and not do anything.

The aversion to strengthening Medicare from our friends on the other side of the aisle is so strong that they will never do it. They will never do it. Only a Medicare benefit, only strengthening Medicare, will provide the solution. That is what the Democratic plan is. That is what the Republican plan is not. That is why we need to pass the Democratic plan.

Mr. TURNER. I thank the gentleman again for his strong leadership. We both came to Congress together. We have both been fighting for this ever since we arrived here. On behalf of all of our constituents who continue to tell us they need help with the high cost of prescription drugs, they need a meaningful, a real prescription drug plan that is a part of Medicare, that they can afford, we will continue to fight.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4931, RETIREMENT SAVINGS SECURITY ACT OF 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (during the Special Order of Mr. TURNER) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-522) on the resolution (H. Res. 451) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4931) to provide that the pension and individual retirement arrangement provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 shall be permanent, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HUMAN CLONING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I and several of my colleagues, including the distinguished physician and Congressman from Florida by the name of

DAVID WELDON, wanted to rise in this Chamber to discuss an issue that, while it has fallen to some extent, to use a colloquialism, below the radar screen here in our Nation's Capital, it is without a doubt the most significant moral question that the institution of the Congress will contend with in this session of Congress and perhaps, Mr. Speaker, for many sessions of Congress to come.

As we debate the restructuring of agencies of the Federal Government, the new Department of Homeland Security, as we debate in memorable terms, as my colleagues just did, the extension of benefits under Medicare, all of these issues pale in comparison to the potential cultural impact and the impact on our system of legal ethics that the legalization of human cloning would represent to our society and even to our civilization.

Yet even though this body has acted and awaits action in the balance of the Congress, I believe it is incumbent upon the Members of this institution who cherish the dignity of human life to rise and to remind our colleagues, as I will do so in the moments ahead, and any of those that are looking in about the profound moral questions that we wrestle with when we argue in favor of a ban of human cloning.

It is my hope that as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) joins us later, he will speak to the medical questions and myths that surround the promise of embryonic stem cell research. The gentleman from Florida will no doubt point out, as many of us did during the debates, that every single breakthrough in the area of stem cell research has taken place using adult stem cells, Mr. Speaker. Not a single breakthrough in medical science has ever occurred using embryonic stem cell research. Yet we are being sold a bill of goods by a technical medical industry that would have us move the line of thousands of years of medical ethics to permit what they, in almost Orwellian terms, refer to as therapeutic cloning, the cloning of human beings, of nascent human life, for the express purpose of testing that tissue.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to say we must prevent human life from becoming a wholesale commodity that is created and consumed. Let me say again, my theme today, my purpose for rising in this Chamber with the colleagues that will join me, is very simple. We must prevent in this Congress, before the close of this year, this session of Congress, we must prevent, by law, human life from becoming a commodity that is created and consumed in a marketplace of science.

I say that knowing that there will be those listening in in offices here on Capitol Hill, there will be those listening in around the United States, who think that this is something of a strange science fiction assertion. But let me suggest to you as a family man, as the father of three small children, a